

WHY SURE!

NOT HAVE A GOOD TIME? HOW!

U. S. CLEARANCE,

605 EAST MAIN STREET.

THE HISTORY OF VIRGINIA.

Highly Interesting Annual Meeting of the Historical Society.

MEMBERSHIP RAPIDLY INCREASING.

Many Valuable Books, Manuscripts and Pictures Donated and Loaned to the Society During the Year—Instructive Papers Read—Election of Officers.

The Virginia Historical Society held its annual meeting at the building of the society last night, which was well attended. Mr. Joseph Bryan, the president of the organization, in calling the meeting to order, stated that the by-laws prescribed that the annual meeting be held on the second Thursday of December. An attempt was made to hold this year the meeting at the fixed time, but that on that occasion a quorum failed to materialize. Mr. Bryan then read his annual report to the society, which was as follows:

PRESIDENT'S REPORT.

Mr. Joseph Bryan, president of the society, submitted his annual report for the past year. The report showed that there have been ninety-four additions to the membership of the society since the last year. The present membership is 611 and the annual members. The total membership has increased in the past year by 15. During the year additions to the library in books, pamphlets, manuscripts, and pictures have been numerous. Of books and pamphlets the society has received 390 titles during the year. Among these are an interesting collection of books on the religious subjects and in connection with the Southern Confederacy, presented by the British Government at Washington, D. C., and a full set of the Encyclopedia Britannica, presented by Mr. Edward W. James. A gift of books of extraordinary value was the forty-four volumes of the Royal Historical Manuscripts Commission, made to the society by the British Government at the instance of the Hon. Thomas F. Bayard, Ambassador of the United States to the court of St. James. Mr. Bayard stated that it was an exceptional compliment, as such societies as the Virginia Historical Society were not usually recipients of such books, and no other society except the Virginia Historical Society was likely to be made the recipient of them.

Besides these gifts, Mr. Charles Wallace, of Richmond, has offered to loan to the society a rare and valuable collection of books on American and Virginia history. Another of the gifts of great interest were the manuscript minutes of the House of Delegates of Virginia for the session of 1776, the first after the organization of the State of Virginia. Many valuable pictures and portraits have been received, among which were eight sketches of the war of 1861-62, by Mr. R. L. Traylor. Besides these many interesting and valuable portraits, sketches, and other objects of art have been given or loaned to the society.

TO MAKE IT FIRE-PROOF.

During the past year the society was engaged to examine the building of the society with a view to making it fire-proof. The report of the committee was unusually thick and in excellent condition, and amply strong to bear the increased weight of the improvements, which is deemed especially important so as to have the building a safe deposit for the valuable collection of books, which is valued at \$50,000, and the additional expense for steam-heating apparatus would increase the cost of the building.

During the coming year the publication committee proposes to complete the publication of the series of papers relating to the history of the State. This will include the first report made by the three English commissioners sent over to inquire into the causes of the rebellion.

A recent careful examination by the committee of the manuscript collections of the Virginia Historical Society shows that the society possesses material of the highest historical value amply enough to furnish the magazines of the world for a number of years, and this without drawing upon the large manuscripts of the society, which should properly be published each in a separate volume.

THE TREASURER'S REPORT.

With the president's report is included the report of the treasurer of the society, which showed that the total receipts for the year were \$3,850.00; expenditures, \$3,851.00; leaving a balance of \$1.00.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

The election of officers for the ensuing year was then proceeded with, and on motion of Mr. Joseph Bryan it was decided that a committee of five be appointed to prepare a list of officers, and the chair appointed as members of that committee Mr. Roosevelt Page, Judge George L. Christian, Jackson Guy, Rev. J. C. Williamsburg, E. V. Valentine, C. V. Merrell, Barton H. Wise, William G. Standard, B. B. Munford, R. H. Gaines, William H. Palmer, Virginia Newton, L. L. Traylor, of Richmond; Charles W. Kent, of the University of Virginia, and E. C. Venable, of Petersburg.

Mr. Bryan briefly thanked the members for the honor conferred upon him, and spoke of the great responsibility resting upon the president of the society. He urged upon the members a change of the constitution, that no presiding officer be elected for more than two or three terms.

On motion of Mr. A. H. Gaines, the

following new members were elected: Mrs. Eliza Lewis Potwin, of Chicago, Ill.; Henry D. Spears, of New York City; University of West Virginia, of Morgantown, W. Va.; A. W. Sims, of Mt. Vernon, Mo.; Colonel George Wayne Anderson, of Richmond; Robert T. Beverly, of Cloverport, Ky.; James S. Pirthe, of Louisville, Ky.; Mrs. William F. Spotswood, of Petersburg, Va.; Mrs. Lucy F. Barnham, of Renick, Mo.; Professors Mitchell and Carroll, of Richmond College.

Professor Lyon G. Tyler reported on behalf of a special committee that the Secretary of the Commonwealth and the State Librarian had readily agreed to publish hereafter the publication of the society at the expense of the State.

Mr. Gaines introduced Colonel William Lamb, of Norfolk, who briefly addressed the society. He introduced himself as the president of the Virginia Alpha of the Phi Beta Kappa Society, of William and Mary College. He said he hoped of the Virginia Historical Society for the return to his society their original records or areana, now in their possession. He furnished an interesting sketch of the society that had recently been revived, and from which the similar societies of Yale and Harvard had their origin.

On motion of Mr. C. V. Merrell it was decided to turn over the records with the provision, however, that if the society should again go out of existence that the valuable documents might return to the Virginia Historical Society.

DR. PALMER'S ILLNESS.

Mr. Roosevelt Page offered the following, which was adopted:

"Whereas, this society has heard with unfeigned sorrow of the illness of its distinguished member, Dr. William P. Palmer, therefore, be it

Resolved, That this society hereby tenders to him its sympathy in his sickness, with the sincere wish that he may soon be restored to health and to the councils of this society, in which he has so long been a valuable and conspicuous member."

Professor Lyon G. Tyler was then introduced, who read a highly interesting paper upon "Some Leading Features of Colonial Life in Virginia." This essay was full of wit and highly entertained the audience.

SECRETARY BRUCE'S PAPER.

Mr. Bruce took up first the assertion of many hostile to Virginia that an important proportion of the population of this State to-day is in a certain sense descendant from transported felons. He dealt briefly with this contention so far as it touches the population of Virginia in the seventeenth century, the formative period in the history of the community, and entirely refuted the assertion referred to.

He said that after 1700 the importation of slaves for agricultural purposes increased so much that the negro became the principal factor in the cultivation of the ground. The importation of white mechanics in the eighteenth century was touched upon. Said Mr. Bruce in this connection:

"While every record goes to show the colonization of Virginia was expected to furnish to the unemployed and dependent poor of England a field where they could be able to secure not only a livelihood, but, as even as Christopher Carle expressed it, 'Honor and distinction,' there is no evidence to prove that it was expected in the popular opinion to be in any sense a penal settlement to which criminals might be removed."

Mr. Bruce here referred to a number of records to bear out this statement. The systems of labor in colonial days, the economic conditions and other features of the colony were briefly sketched, and the character of the classes of emigrants to Virginia in the seventeenth century was given with such praise-worthy comment as would be appropriate to the ancestors to a great and noble people.

PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

Interesting Facts About Richmond's Citizens and their Matters.

Miss J. H. Page, of 221 North Ninth street, has gone to Fluvanna county for the Christmas holidays.

The regular weekly meeting of the Central Woman's Christian Temperance Union will not be held on the 24th instant. The union will hold their annual donation meeting at the almshouse on the 27th in connection with the golden rule of missions. All other unions are kindly invited to attend.

Mr. C. W. Lemon, who has been in this city for many years, is spending the winter at his home in Pennsylvania, where he will spend the holidays.

Miss Maggie Saville, of Norfolk, who has been visiting friends in the city for the past few weeks, left for home last Tuesday.

UTAH WILL BE ADMITTED.

The President's Proclamation to be Issued January 4th.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 21.—The Constitution of the State of Utah, which was submitted to the Attorney-General by the President, has been examined and approved by that officer.

The President will on January 4, 1896, issue his proclamation admitting the Territory of Utah as a State of the Union, and the terms of the State officers will begin on the following Monday, January 6th.

In compliance with the request of the delegation that presented the Constitution to the President, the Attorney-General has advised the Chief Justice of the Territory of Utah of the contemplated action of the President.

Commission's Time Extended.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—Ratifications were exchanged to-day by the republic of Mexico through Senator Romero, the Mexican Minister, and the Government of the United States, through Secretary Olney, of a treaty extending the time allotted the joint Mexican and United States commission for determining the water boundary of the Rio Grande river, to settle the dispute over the use of water from that stream.

The extension is for one year from December 24, 1895.

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING.

BROAD STREET IS NOW PRESENTING A HOLIDAY APPEARANCE.

The Stores are Doing a Rushing Business. Busy Crowds of Christmas Purchasers Crowd the Sidewalks.

And I heard him exclaim ere he drove out of sight, "Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night."

The season of peace on earth, good will toward men is nearly here. Wednesday will be Christmas day, and as such will be observed all over this world wherever Christian civilization holds sway. The merriest of all seasons has come, and right royal are the preparations that are being made for its annual observance.

UP BROAD STREET.

For the past week Broad street, and indeed, other business thoroughfares in the city have been crowded with Christmas shoppers. Not for several years have such crowds of purchasers and promenaders been seen on the retail streets. When I walked up Broad street several times yesterday and Friday there was a multitude of people that could not be numbered with less than fifty thousand. It was a good-natured crowd, and every man, woman, and child seemed to have Christmas in their bones. The capitalist brushed elbows with the pauper; the society woman swept along next to the street-walker, the small boy with his grandmother, and the distinguished personage with the plain, ordinary individual. The street was in gala attire, and all the shop-windows were dressed in keeping with the season.

Florida vied with toy stores for the honors in the way of decorations; dry goods establishments, drug stores, book stores, and novelty establishments, all had on their Christmas exhibits temporary purchases as they peeped in. Hundreds of girls tripped along merrily with their arms full of bundles and packages, and the continuous stream moved steadily up and down the street without for a moment observing the idea of "keep to the right."

Veritably the sidewalks were the channels in which flowed backwards and forwards, a continuous stream of busy people, imbued with practically one idea, that of Christmas, and all the accessories in the way of good times, good fellowship, and good cheer, that come annually with the greatest of all holidays.

IN THE TOY STORES.

I took a peep into a number of the large toy stores. They were filled with busy mamas and patient papas, engaged in buying innumerable surprises for their children. The shelves were crowded with what will be hung up on innumerable bedsheets on Tuesday night.

What a wealth of playthings. As I stood to one side, out of the busy crowd, and gazed upon the well-stocked shelves, old memories began to revive themselves as I saw and there I recognized friends who were very dear and familiar to me in those days when I, too, dreamed "It was the night before Christmas."

There was my friend, Mr. Jack-in-the-Box, with his grinning face, large head, and elongated body, how well I remember him. Then the Noah's Ark, with its varied collection of stuffed animals, the bats, birds, fish, stick-horses, books, marbles, tops, tin swords and bows, and the collection of tin soldiers, and many a young heart will be made glad on Christmas morning by these dear old objects.

CANDIES OF ALL KINDS.

The candy shops. What a tempting profusion of "goodies" they offered, and how the mouths of the little children watered at the prospect of the bon-bons they will find far down in the foot of those fathomless stockings. It occurred to me to ask a friend of mine what would Christmas be without a stocking, and he promptly replied, "Failure. I believe he was right for no one will deny that the two are closely associated, and have been ever since there was a stocking to be hung up, and a kind-hearted old Santa Claus to fill it.

THE BEAUTIFUL FLOWERS.

The windows of the flower shops with their beautiful display of the same, the cultivation of the vegetable kingdom caught my eyes. There were those glorious roses of opera and German fame, "The American Beauties," and next in point of numbers, the dainty violets, viewed with their more glorious sisters, the pansies. These two flowers are the most popular, and a large number of orders have been placed with the florists for quantities of them, all of course, to be duly delivered on Christmas morning. There was also a profusion of beautiful lilies, carnations, potted plants, ferns, and palms, all of which go to add to the beauty and purity of Christmas day.

A TIME OF LOVE-MAKING.

I must not forget the jewelry stores with the numberless trinkets of beautiful conceits in the way of silver ornaments. These stores are largely patronized by the young man who has a girl, and by the young girl who wants a beau. Some people are bashful, and they find Christmas a most convenient time to declare their hidden feelings by some pretty souvenir. Yes, many a man is married to-day, and I presume happily so, all as a result of Christmas and a silver toilet service for Mary, or what ever else it may have happened to have been.

IN THE MARKETS.

Now, turn aside for a moment from what is idealistic and let me take you through the Old and New markets and tell you of the substantial part of Christmas that I saw there. First of all, there were the turkeys. Do you know as I gazed at a big gobbling hanging over one of the stalls by his once proud neck, the story of "Little Tiny Tim's" turkey came into my mind, and I found myself at once both associating feelings of sentiment and satisfaction with this glorious bird. Oh, the cranberries and celery, those

national accompaniments of a well-cooked, nicely browned, and steaming hot turkey, these were car loads of those very desirable articles.

The meat and fish stalls offered in their line such an abundance as to make it no easy matter to know what to purchase. The heaps of apples, potatoes, and other vegetables, that fill the markets are too numerous to mention, so like Tiny Tim I will close and wish you all "A Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year."

Birth Places of Calhoun and Lincoln.

To the Editor of The Times: Sir.—In trying to determine to which States belong the honor of having given birth to some of the most prominent and distinguished men in American history, I am at a loss, as to how to reconcile some conflicting statements I have seen and heard with reference to the birth places of the two great men.

It is stated of Calhoun's father, that he entered and owned a tract of land in this (Wythe) county about the time or just before this part of old Augusta county became Wythe, and that when Calhoun's father sold out here and removed to South Carolina, John C. was born in Grayson county, Va., while the family was en route to their destination in South Carolina.

As to Mr. Lincoln, it is stated in Pittsburg Lee's admirable book on General Lee, on the fifteenth and sixteenth lines of the book, that the birth place of Mr. Jefferson Davis and Mr. Abraham Lincoln were born in Kentucky.

Now, no invidious distinctions whatever are sought to be made, as the result of their radical step, provided, of course, that the commissioners did not sustain the extreme claims of the British Government to the disputed territory.

BUNCE'S SQUADRON.

Mr. Herbert's talk with the President related, it is understood, to the projected visit of Rear Admiral Bunce's squadron to the vicinity of the Venezuelan coast. It was ascertained whether any change was made in the itinerary. Admiral Bunce will have an interview tomorrow with Secretary Herbert on the subject.

DEATHS.

PAHRIS, Dec. 21.—General Guzman Blanco, of Venezuela, said to-day that it would be easy to prove that England was wrong in her dispute with Venezuela.

MARRIAGES.

FORDHAM-COWARDIN.—Married at Washington, D. C., on the 16th of December, 1895, by the Rev. C. C. 2nd, Mr. J. N. FORDHAM and Miss FLORENCE D. COWARDIN, both of Richmond, Va.

PAIRISH-TYLER.—Married at Richmond, Va., in Sharon church, December 18th, Mr. J. H. PAIRISH and Miss LILLIAN TYLER, Elder Z. P. Richardson officiating.

TIMBERLAKE.—Died, at 8:30 A. M., December 21st, at the residence of her parents, No. 345 east Clay street, MABEL, youngest daughter of John O. and Martha Timberlake in the eighth year of her age.

HUBBARD.—Died, December 20th, at 10 P. M., at his home, in Charles street, Mr. E. B. HUBBARD, in the sixty-fourth year of his age.

He leaves four daughters and two sons to mourn their loss.

The funeral will take place from the residence SUNDAY, December 22d, at 11 o'clock. Friends and acquaintances invited to attend.

Brief But to the Point.

Captain G. W. Metz, United States revenue gauger, says when he goes to a distillery and finds the manager out he makes another visit rather than gauge the liquor in his absence. In a recent visit to a distillery in a neighboring county, he asked for the proprietor, when the lady of the house came forward and said, "My husband is not at home and I—If you are going to gauge any brandy here."

The Katakadin Rejected.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 21.—The "case" defence ran Katakadin, built by the Bath Iron Works, of Bath, Me., has been rejected by President Cleveland.

This rejection of the Katakadin case, concludes Executive action in the matter, and the cost of the vessel will be a total loss to the contractors unless a congressional enactment in the case can be secured.

General Hyde, the president of the Bath Iron Works, who was informed of the President's decision to-day, has taken time by the forelock, and a bill providing for the purchase of the Katakadin by the Government has already been introduced at his instance by Senator Hale, of Maine.

BOUNDARY COMMISSION.

PRESIDENT DISCUSSES THE MATTER WITH OLNEY AND HERBERT.

Work of the Commission Difficult and Responsible—Course of the President When Their Report is Received.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—Secretary Olney and Secretary Herbert had a long conference with President Cleveland to-day about the present and probable future aspects of the Venezuelan situation.

Mr. Olney and the President, it is understood, discussed the appointment of the Venezuelan commission authorized by Congress.

According to the wording of the resolution authorizing the commission, the commissioners are directed to ascertain the true divisional boundary between Venezuela and British Guiana. This, of course, makes their work so much more difficult and increases their responsibility.

WHAT CLEVELAND WILL DO.

It was said to-day that when the report of the commission is received, the President will adopt one of two courses. He will either send the findings of the commission to Congress with a request for action or else issue a proclamation declaring the true boundary to be that ascertained by the commissioners. What would follow this latter action can only be surmised, but it is probable that the President would use it as the basis for another attempt to secure Great Britain's agreement to the Venezuelan coast.

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PLAY-BILL THIS WEEK.

MANTELL AND A GREAT COMEDY DRAMA THE HOLIDAY ATTRACTIONS.

The Husband, Monbars and The Corsican Brothers Selected From Mantell's Repertory—"Friends" on Friday and Saturday—Lillian is Coming.

EARLY SETTLERS

are eye-openers. We'll open your eyes, too, when you look at our stock of WINES AND LIQUORS which presents an array of bargains unprecedented in Richmond. See what our prices mean to the family exchequer by examining the stock. Our stock is a whole dictionary of practical definitions of cheapness, which will pay you to come to the store to study. Close buying multiples savings, and our store is the place to make the multiplication. Here are reductions that reduce, price cuts that open the door wide to large economies. Don't let it slip in your face by delay, but hurry up and take a hand in the fun.

HERMAN SCHMIDT,

EUROPEAN STORES,

30 AND 32 EAST BROAD STREET.

ESTABLISHED 1895.

022-11

REMEMBER,

We are in the field for good

work at the lowest possible

cut prices. No humbugging,

but solid, honest work and

guaranteed fit at prices that

defy competition: Trousers

to order from

\$3.50 to \$6.

Richmond Trousers Co.,

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